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THE WORLD'S MOST WAY PAST COOL COMIC!

# SONIC

## THE HEDGEHOG™

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY



*[Handwritten signature]*

WELCOME TO THE PLANET *MOBIUS*-- A WORLD *UNIQUE AND BEYOND* WHAT YOU KNOW FROM THE *SEGA GAMES*-- WHERE *SONIC* AND THE HEROIC *FREEDOM FIGHTERS* WORK TO SAVE THE WORLD FROM THE FORCES OF *EVIL!*

# CHANGING TEMPO

WOULD YOU RELAX?

WE'RE HERE TO HAVE SOME FUN!

UH HUH...



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SONIC, GEOFFREY BETRAYED US AND SHOT YOU IN THE BACK!\*

RELAXATION HAS BEEN DIFFICULT LATELY.

EH, DETAILS. SAL, YOU ARE COMING TO THIS CONCERT... AND YOU'RE GONNA LIKE IT.



EVEN IF MINA ISN'T YOUR FAVORITE.

WHAT?! I GOT BOTH HER ALBUMS AT LAUNCH. WHY WOULD YOU THINK THAT?

'CAUSE WHEN MINA FIRST STARTED GETTING BIG...

...PRETTY MUCH ANY TIME I BROUGHT HER UP, YOU GOT ALL QUIET AND STUFF.

\*SEE LAST ISSUE!



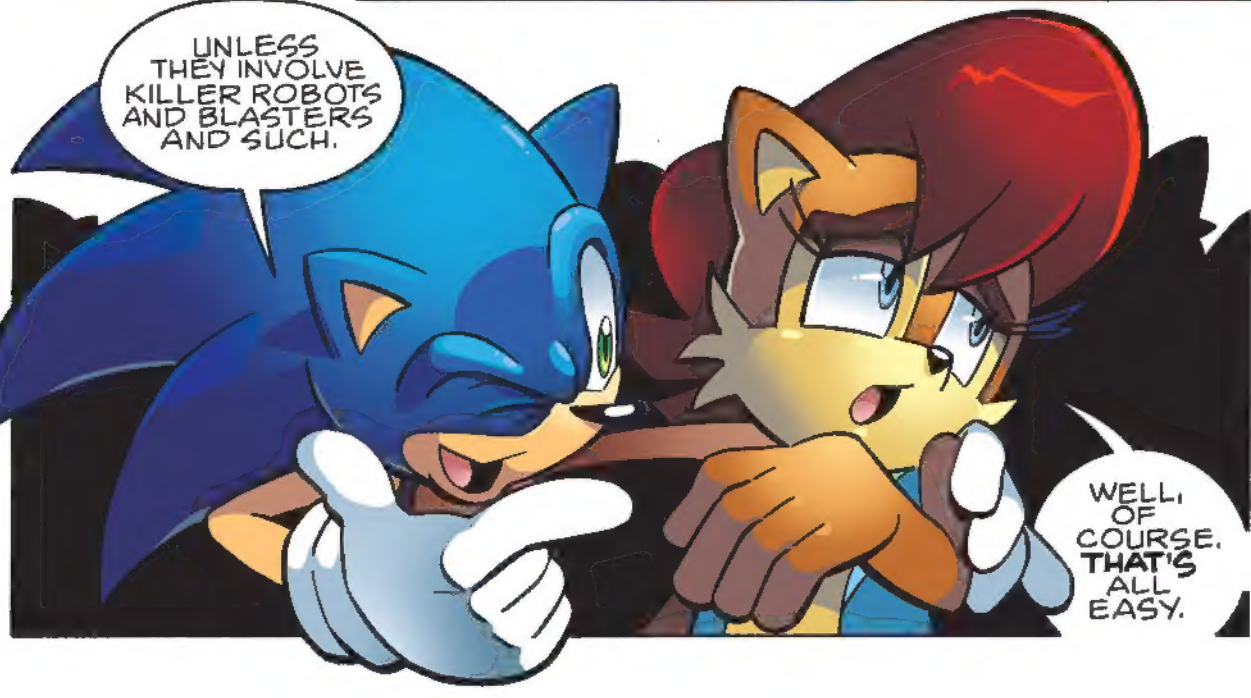
OH, THAT. I... I THOUGHT SHE WAS TRYING TO DATE YOU, AND I WAS JEALOUS.

YOU ...WAIT, WHAT?

SO ALL THAT AWKWARDNESS AND TIME APART...

SEE, SAL, THIS IS WHY WE SHOULD DO THIS "TALKING" THING MORE. WE COULD'VE SAVED OURSELVES A LOT OF ANGST.

I KNOW, I KNOW. I DON'T HANDLE CONFRONTATIONS WELL.

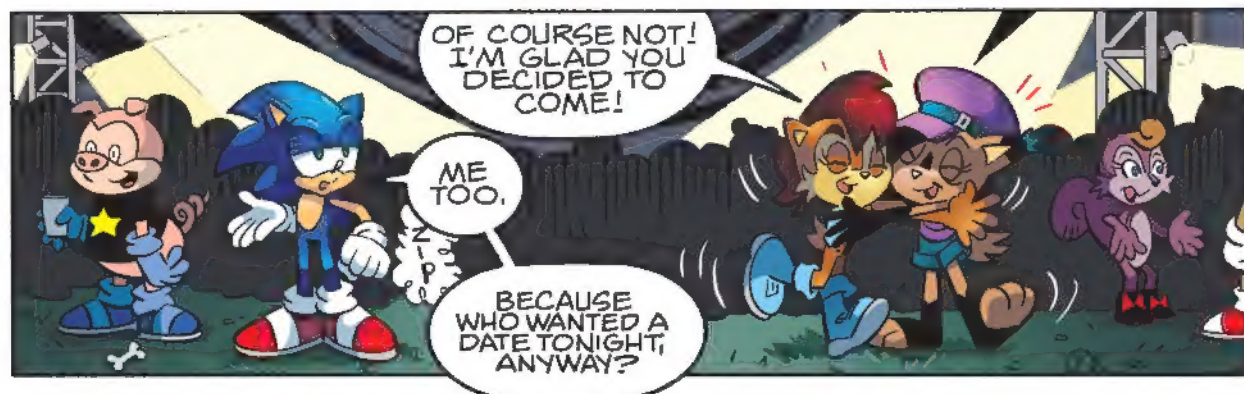


UNLESS THEY INVOLVE KILLER ROBOTS AND BLASTERS AND SUCH.

WELL, OF COURSE. THAT'S ALL EASY.



\*STH # 212





DIG THE NEW LOOK, BY THE WAY, HIGH POLY-GON COUNT, RIGHT?

HA-HA!

I THOUGHT I WOULD PROGRAM SOMETHING DIFFERENT...

...SINCE I'M STILL NOT SURE I'M WELCOME IN PUBLIC.



WHAT? PSSSHT! OF COURSE YOU ARE!

EVER SINCE THE IRON DOMINION'S INVASION, PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ON EDGE. I'M PART OF THE CITY'S SYSTEMS. I... HEAR THINGS.\*

\*CATCH THE ENTIRE EPIC SAGA IN STH #208-211.

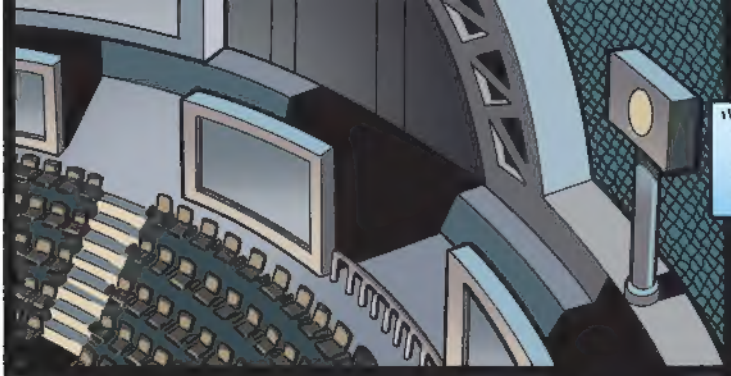


BETWEEN THAT AND KNOTHOLE, THE CITIZENS ARE RIGHTFULLY JUMPY.\*\* BUT YOU'RE A FREEDOM FIGHTER, NICOLE. THEY'LL CALM DOWN EVENTUALLY.

\*\*STH # 175-176.



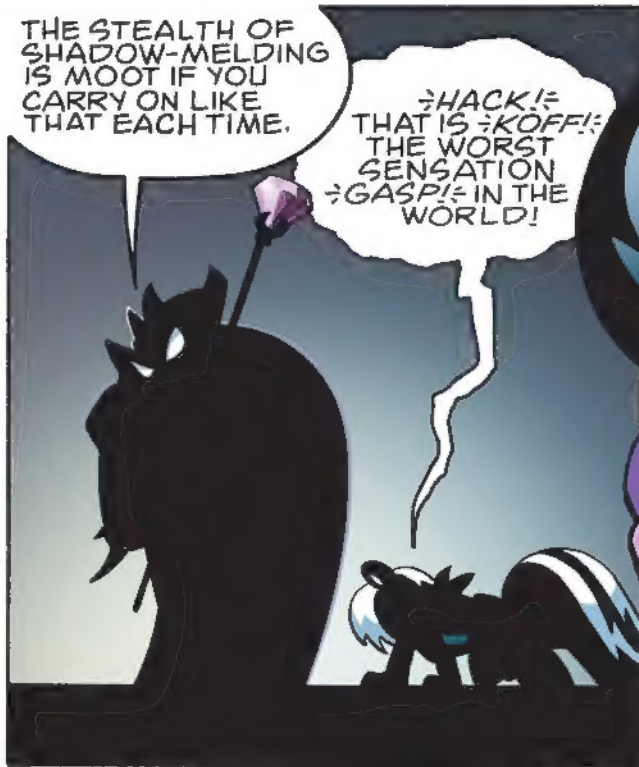
EXACTLY. TONIGHT WE'RE JUST GOING TO KICK BACK, ENJOY THE SHOW, AND NOT WORRY ABOUT STUFF LIKE POLITICS, OR EGGMAN MISSING...



"...OR WHAT HAPPENED TO GEOFFREY ST. JERK."



≡GASP!≡



THE STEALTH OF SHADOW-MELDING IS MOOT IF YOU CARRY ON LIKE THAT EACH TIME.

≡HACK!≡ THAT IS ≡KOFF!≡ THE WORST SENSATION ≡GASP!≡ IN THE WORLD!



AND BEFORE YOU EVEN START, REMEMBER--

--YOU DIDN'T STICK AROUND TO TEACH ME MORE THAN THE BASICS.



MY MAGIC MAY BE SUB-PAR, BUT IT'S MY SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE...



...YOU'LL NEED TO GET THIS KINGDOM BACK.

AND IT'S PRECISELY THOSE TRAITS THAT HAVE ME ADVISING YOU AGAINST DOING THIS, MASTER.

FIRST-HAND RECONNAISSANCE IS GOOD, BUT THIS IS THE WRONG WAY TO DO IT.

THERE'S TOO HIGH A RISK OF BEING SEEN...

...AND MY PLAN DOESN'T WORK WITHOUT THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE.

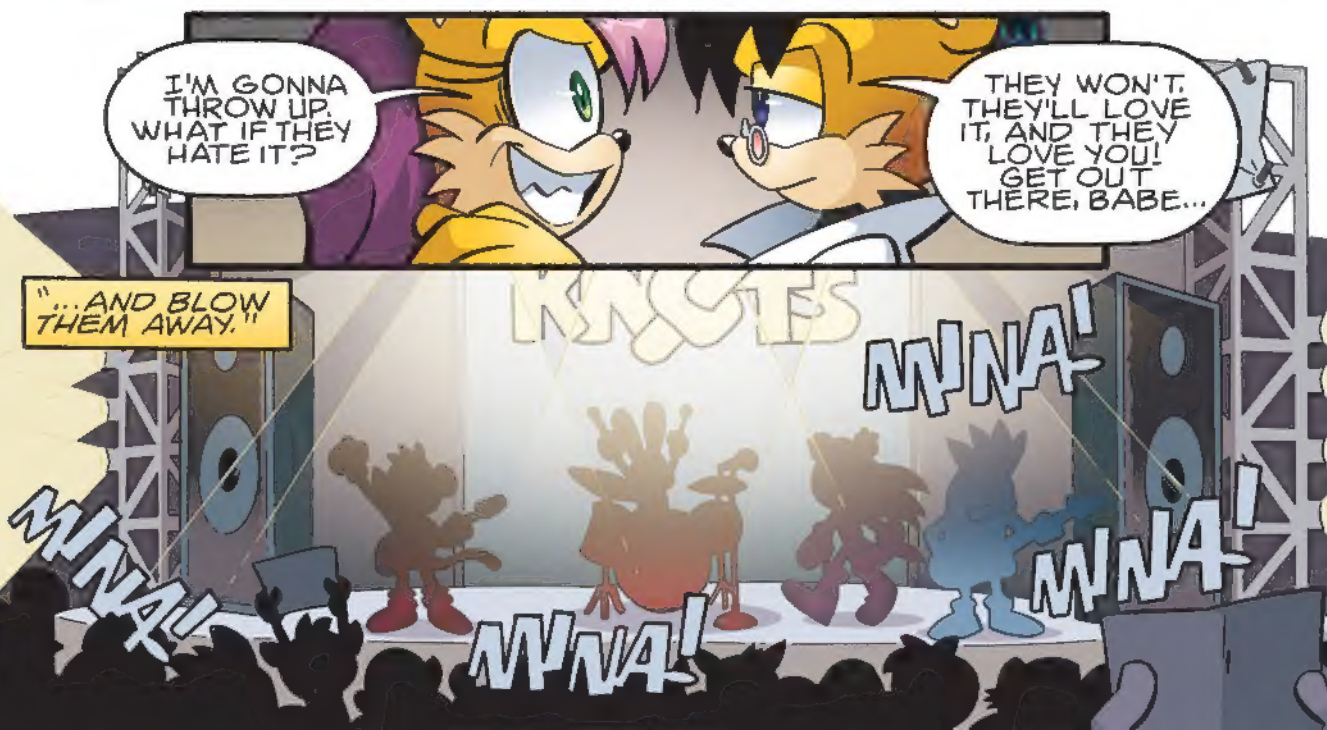
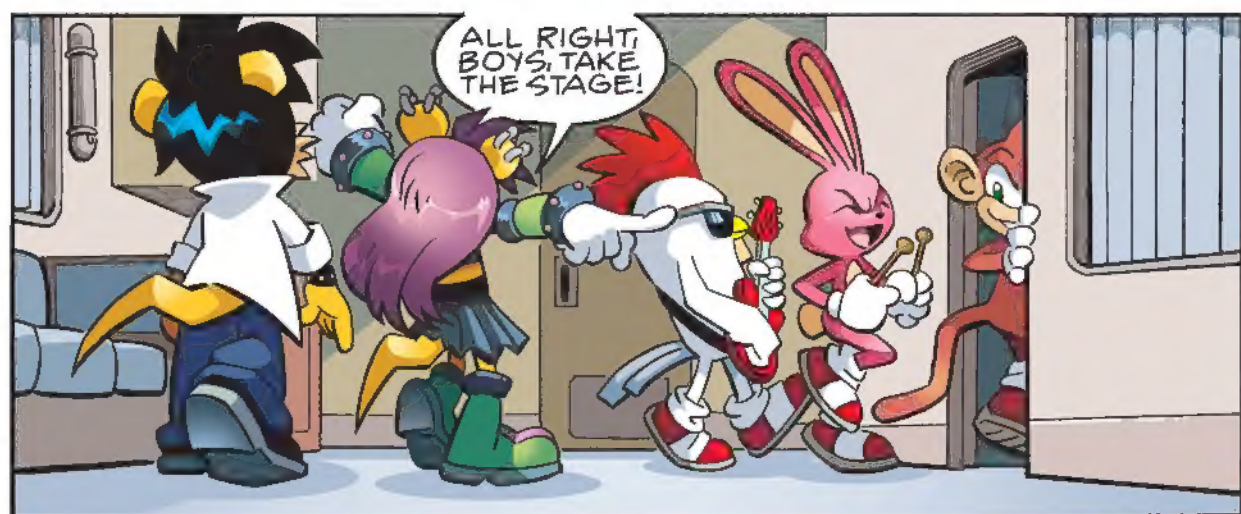
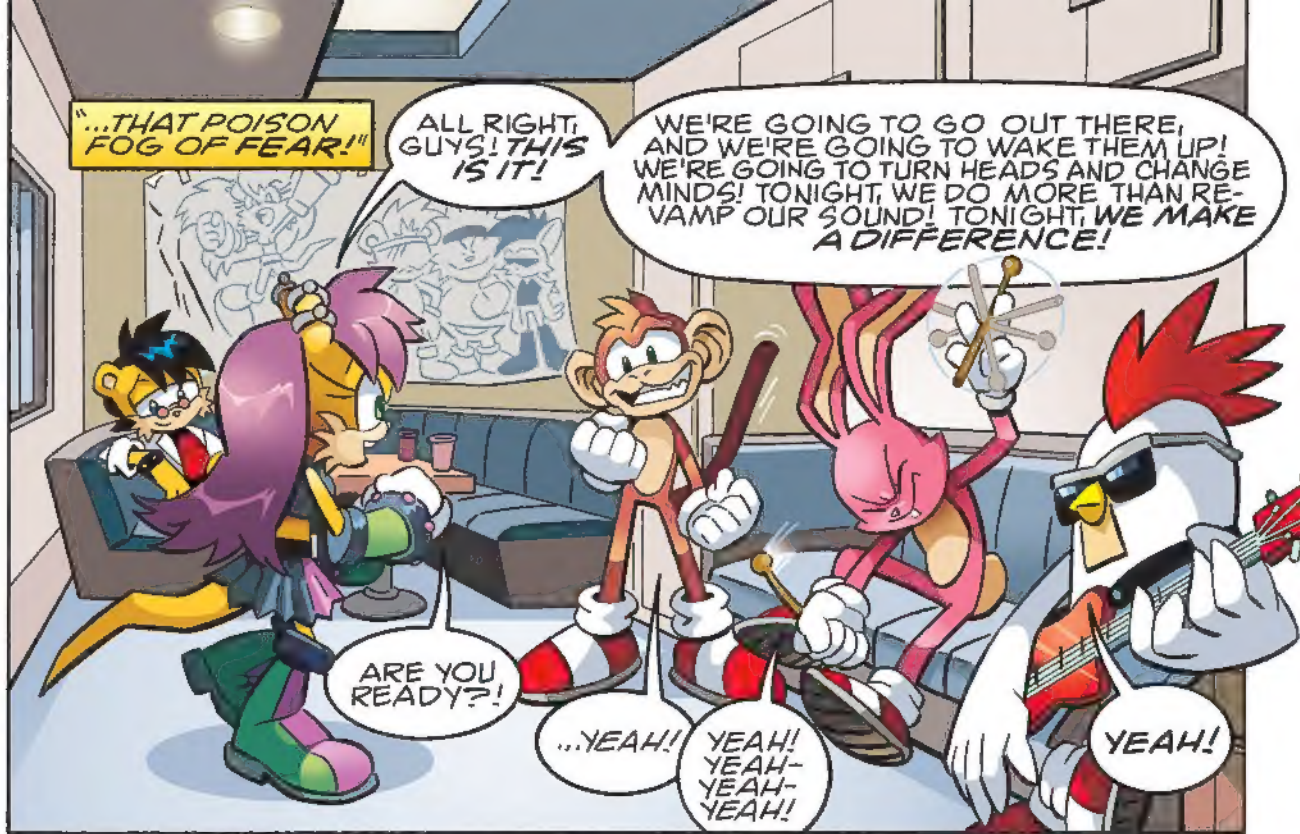
DO NOT LECTURE ME, BOY.

IT IS A GOOD PLAN, BUT IT NEEDS MORE. WHAT WE NEED IS HERE TONIGHT. CAN YOU NOT FEEL IT IN THE AIR?

FEEL WHAT, SIR?

ER...NOT MY INTENTION, SIR. BUT THE PLAN...

THE FEAR, GEOFFREY...








YOU KNOW ME. YOU KNOW THE BAND. BUT YOU DON'T KNOW THE TREAT YOU'RE IN FOR!

NO NEED TO START OFF GENTLY! THESE PEOPLE CAN TAKE IT!

HIT IT, SHARPS!



A vibrant, comic-style illustration of Sonic the Hedgehog and his friends performing on a stage. Sonic, with his signature blue fur and spiky hair, is in the center, holding a microphone and making a rock-on hand gesture. To his left, Amy Rose, with her long pink hair and yellow dress, is also performing. To his right, Tails, Knuckles, and Cream are visible, all appearing to be part of the act. The background is filled with musical notes, stage lights, and a dark, moody atmosphere. Several speech bubbles contain lyrics, and the overall scene is framed by a yellow border.

I LIE AWAKE--!  
IN MY BED--!  
JUST CAN'T SLEEP--!  
FULL OF DREAD--

WILL THE  
NIGHTMARES  
COME FOR ME  
THIIIIIS TIME?

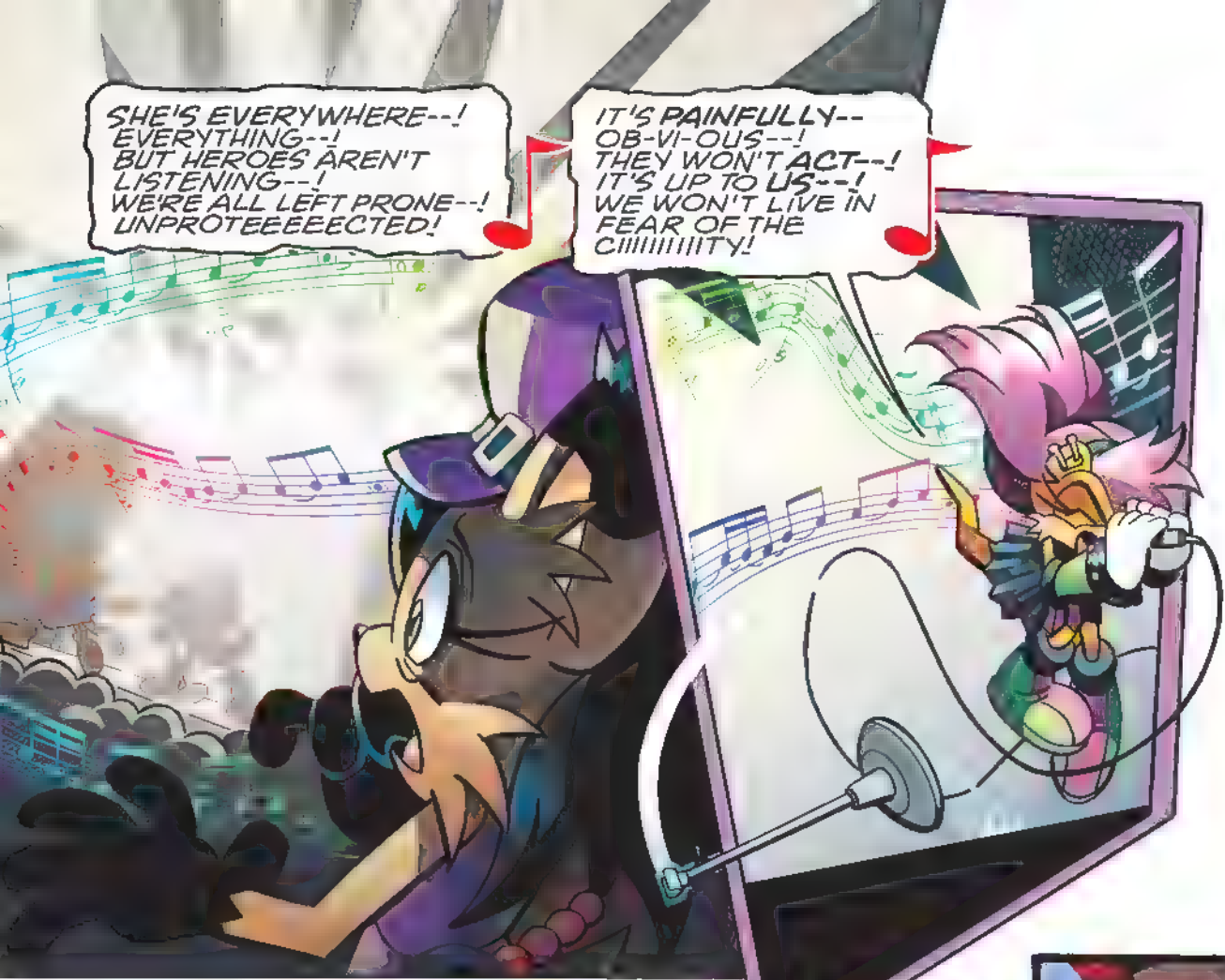
IN THE DAY--!  
IN THE NIGHT--!  
NEVER KNOWING--!  
FULL OF FRIGHT--!  
WHY WON'T ANYONE  
LIIIIIIIIIIISTEN?

I CAN'T ALWAYS BE  
JUMPING AT  
SHAAAAAAAAAADOWS!  
I CAN'T ALWAYS BE  
RUNNING  
AWAAAAAAAAAY!

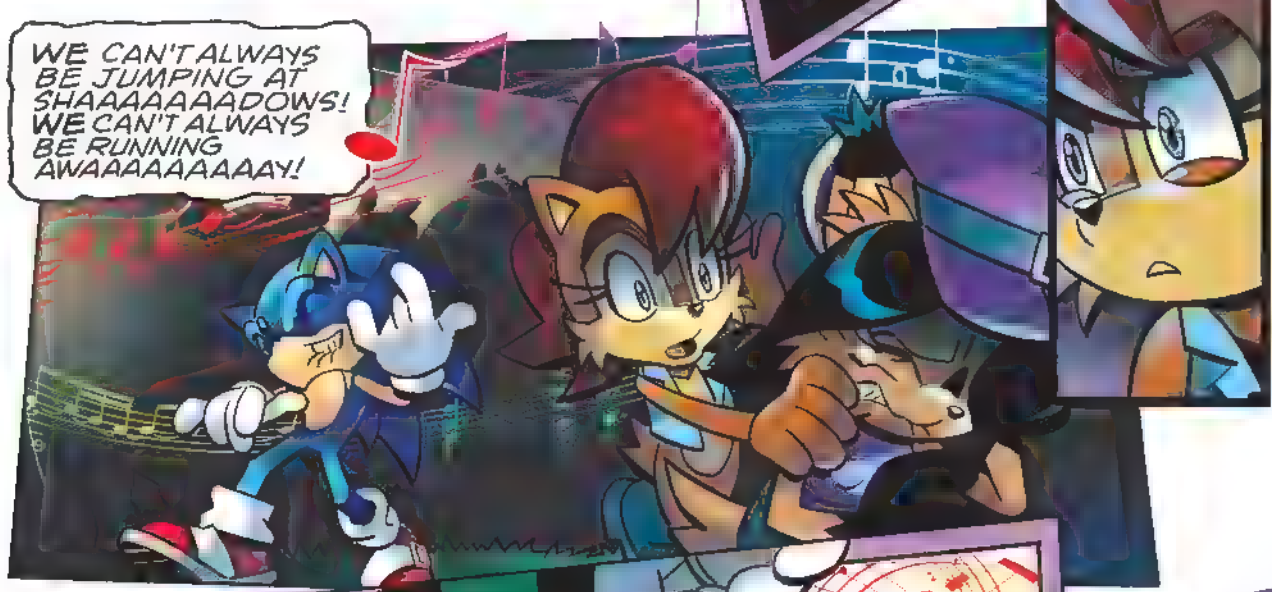
I WON'T BE AFRAID!  
I'LL SAVE MYSELF!  
I WON'T BE AFRAID!  
I'LL SAVE MYSELF!

**SHE'S EVERYWHERE---!  
EVERYTHING---!  
BUT HEROES AREN'T  
LISTENING---!  
WE'RE ALL LEFT PRONE---!  
UNPROTEEEECTED!**

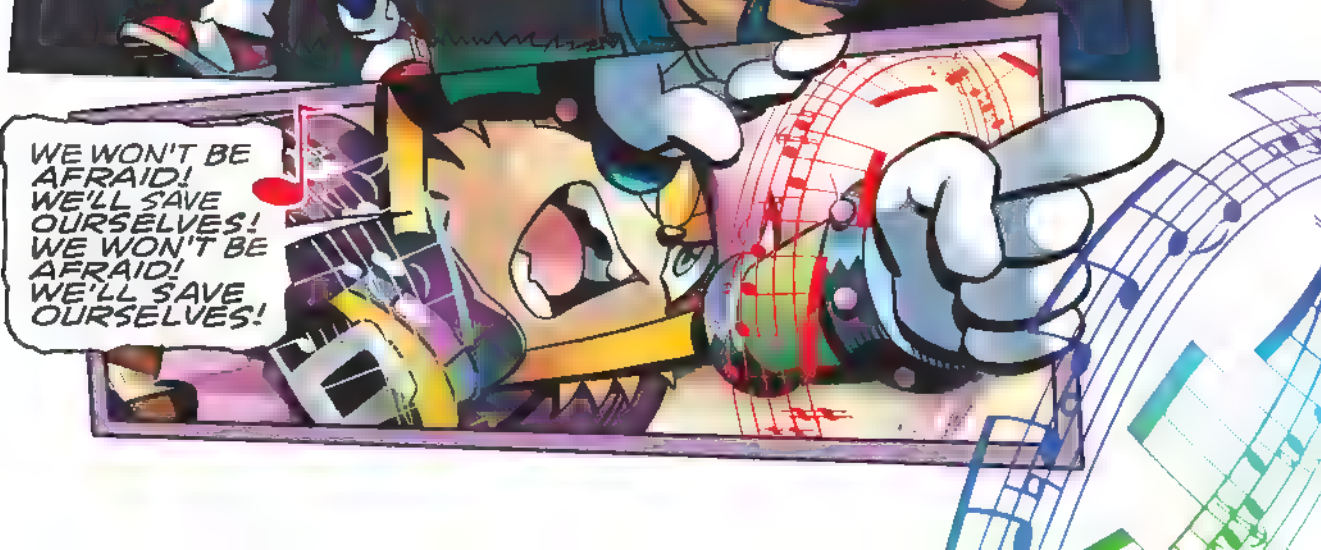
**IT'S PAINFULLY--  
OB-VI-OUS---!  
THEY WON'T ACT--!  
IT'S UP TO US---!  
WE WON'T LIVE IN  
FEAR OF THE  
CIIIIIIITY!**



**WE CAN'T ALWAYS  
BE JUMPING AT  
SHAAAAAADOWS!  
WE CAN'T ALWAYS  
BE RUNNING  
AWAAAAAAAAAY!**



**WE WON'T BE  
AFRAID!  
WE'LL SAVE  
OURSELVES!  
WE WON'T BE  
AFRAID!  
WE'LL SAVE  
OURSELVES!**



WE WON'T BE AFRAID!  
WE'LL SAVE OURSELVES!

WE WON'T BE AFRAID!

WE WON'T BE AFRAID!

WE'LL SAVE OURSELVES!

WE WON'T BE AFRAID!

...NICOLE?

WE'LL SAVE OURSELVES!

WE'LL SAVE OURSELVES!

WE WON'T BE AFRAID!  
WE'LL SAVE OURSELVES!

CRUIKEY I  
KNEW THERE  
WAS SOME  
CONCERN ABOUT  
THE NANITES AND  
NICOLE, BUT I  
DIDN'T REALIZE  
IT WAS THIS  
BAD.

REGARDLESS,  
THIS WILL PLAY  
DIRECTLY INTO  
OUR--WAIT,  
WHAT?

HHHHHHHA  
HAHA! FEAR  
IS THE MIND-  
KILLER!

YOU...YOU'RE  
DOING THIS. YOU'RE  
USING YOUR MAGIC  
TO BLOW THEIR  
FEELINGS OUT OF  
PROPORTION.

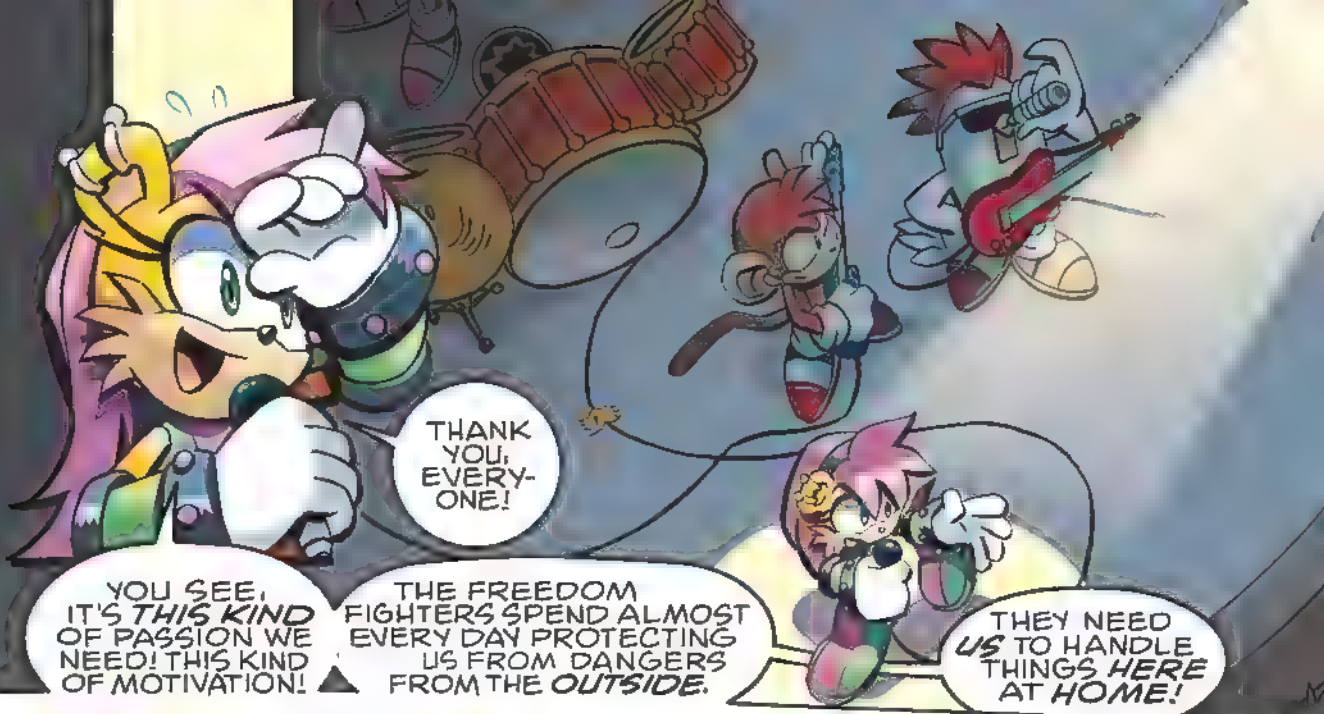
IT WAS  
--AND IT  
WASN'T.

JUST  
AS IN  
THE GREAT  
WAR...

...THEY  
WILL DO  
MORE THAN  
CALL FOR  
REFORM...

...THEY'LL BE  
BAYING FOR  
BLOOD!



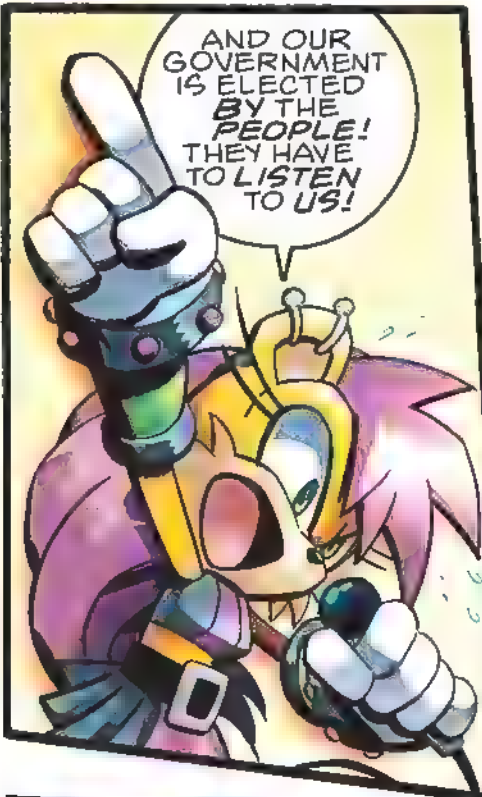


THANK YOU, EVERYONE!

YOU SEE, IT'S *THIS* KIND OF PASSION WE NEED! THIS KIND OF MOTIVATION!

THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS SPEND ALMOST EVERY DAY PROTECTING US FROM DANGERS FROM THE *OUTSIDE*.

THEY NEED *US* TO HANDLE THINGS *HERE* AT HOME!

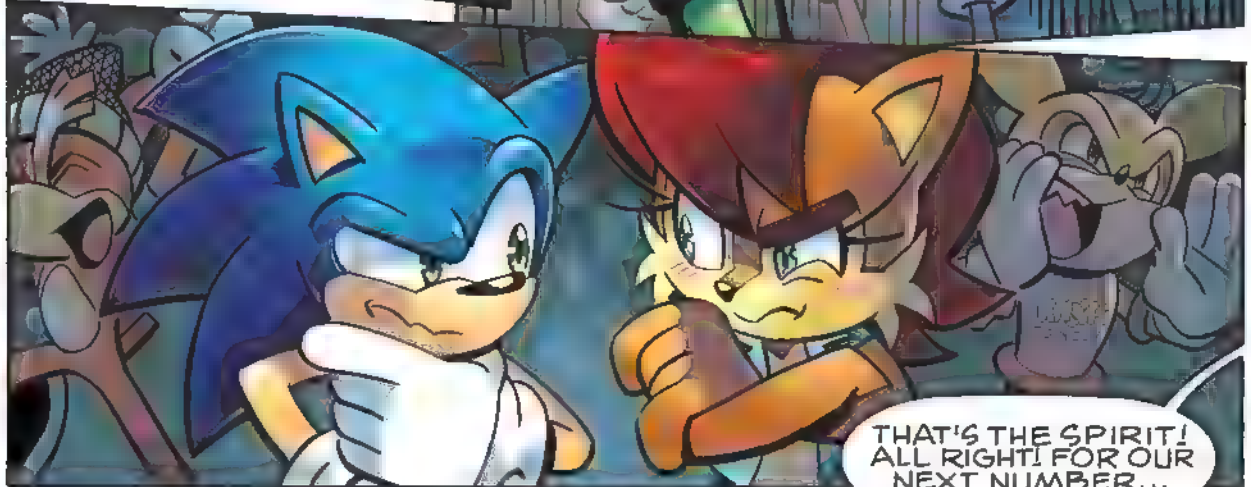


AND OUR GOVERNMENT IS ELECTED *BY THE PEOPLE!* THEY HAVE TO LISTEN TO *US!*



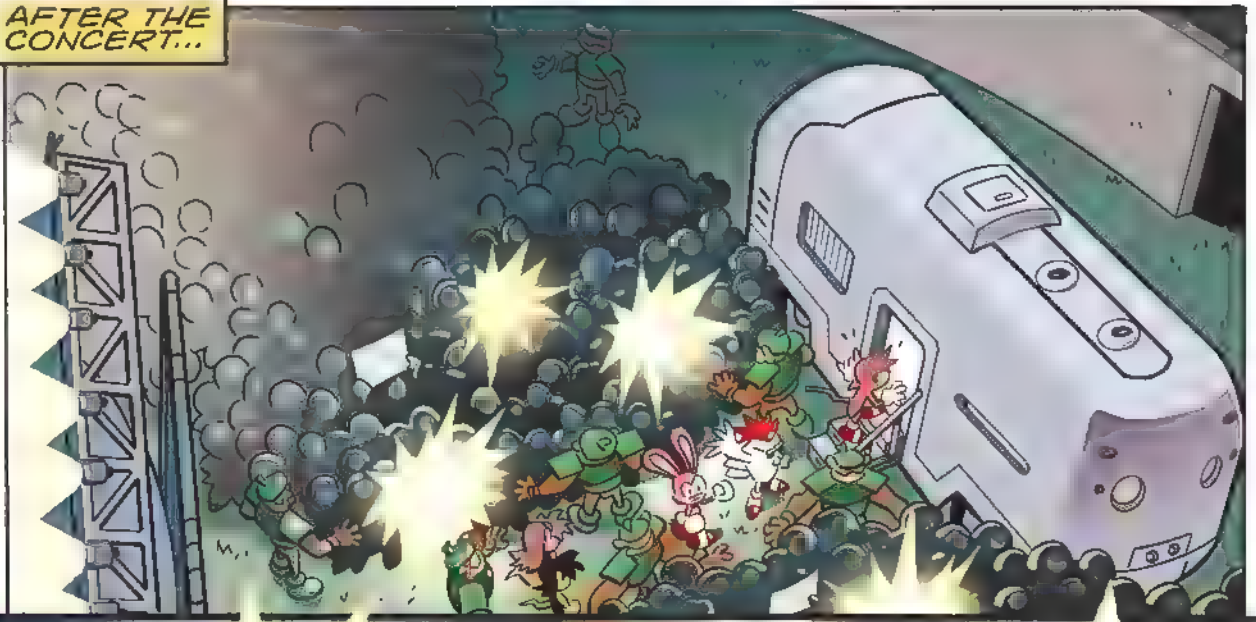
WE WON'T BE AFRAID! WE WILL SAVE OURSELVES! AND WE DEMAND CHANGE-- *NOW!*

**YEEEAHH!**



THAT'S THE SPIRIT! ALL RIGHT! FOR OUR NEXT NUMBER...

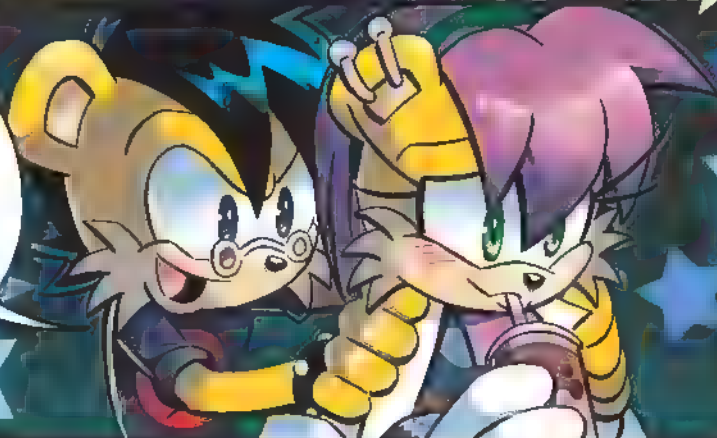
AFTER THE  
CONCERT...



THANK  
YOU! THANK  
YOU! GOOD  
NIGHT, EVERY-  
BODY! THANKS  
FOR COMING  
OUT!

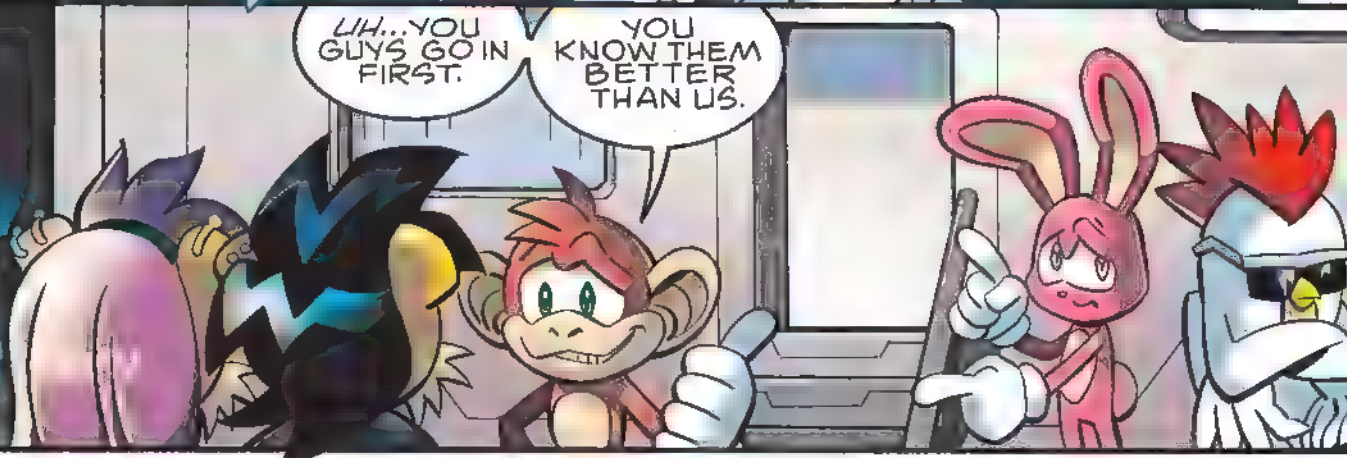


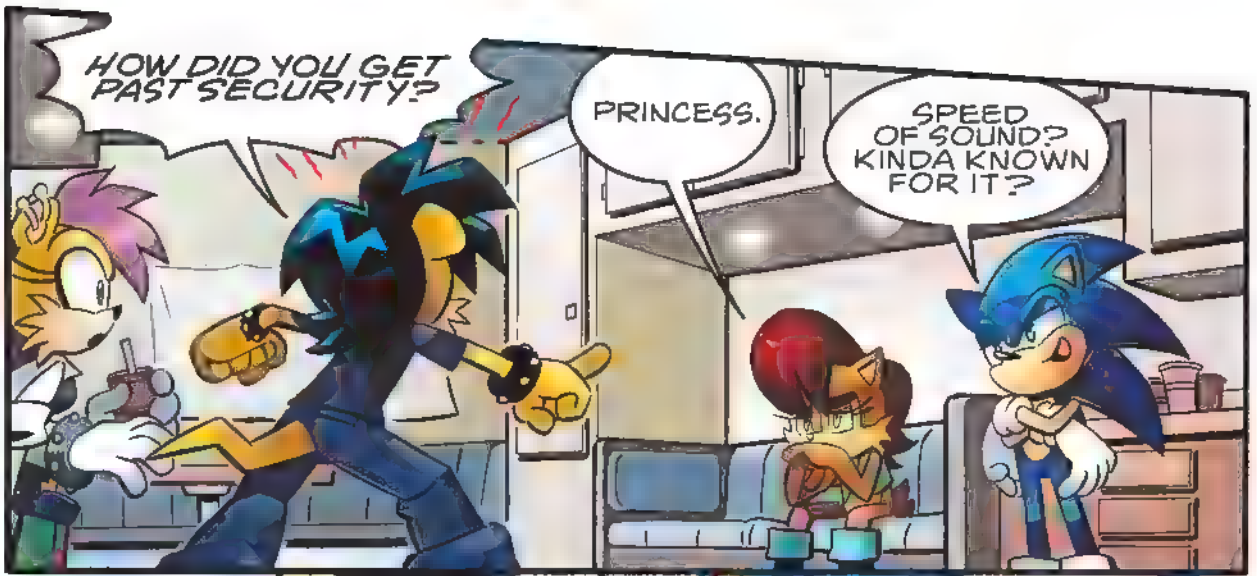
WHAT DID  
I TELL YOU,  
BABE?! YOU  
WERE GREAT!  
THEY ATE IT UP!  
A COUPLE MORE  
SHOWS HERE,  
AND THEN  
WE'LL HIT  
THE ROAD  
TO--



UH... YOU  
GUYS GO IN  
FIRST.

YOU  
KNOW THEM  
BETTER  
THAN US.

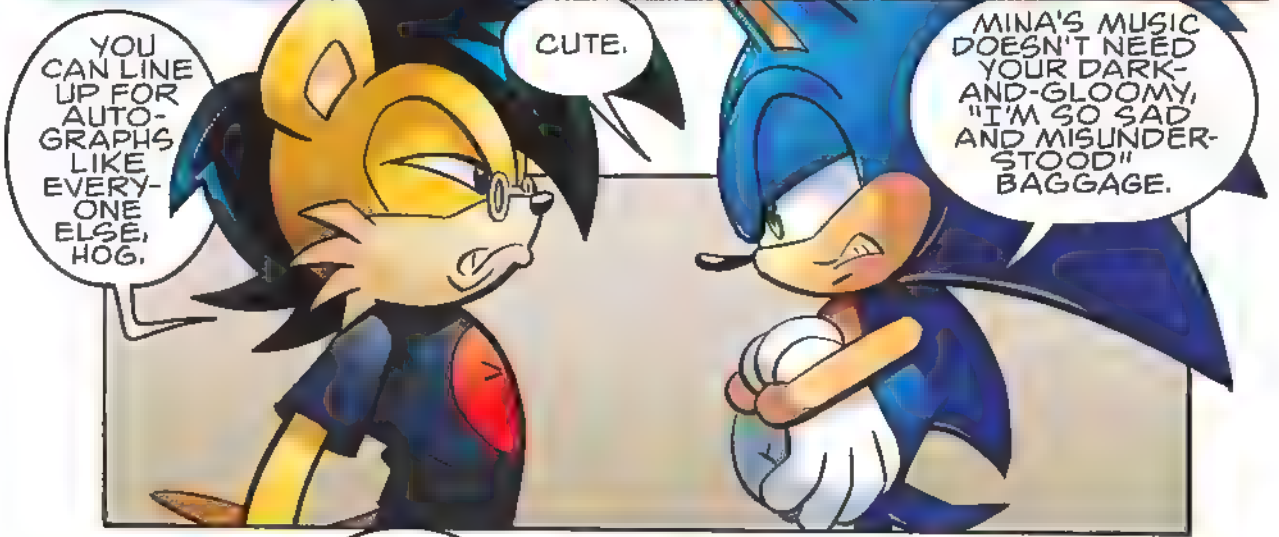




HOW DID YOU GET PAST SECURITY?

PRINCESS.

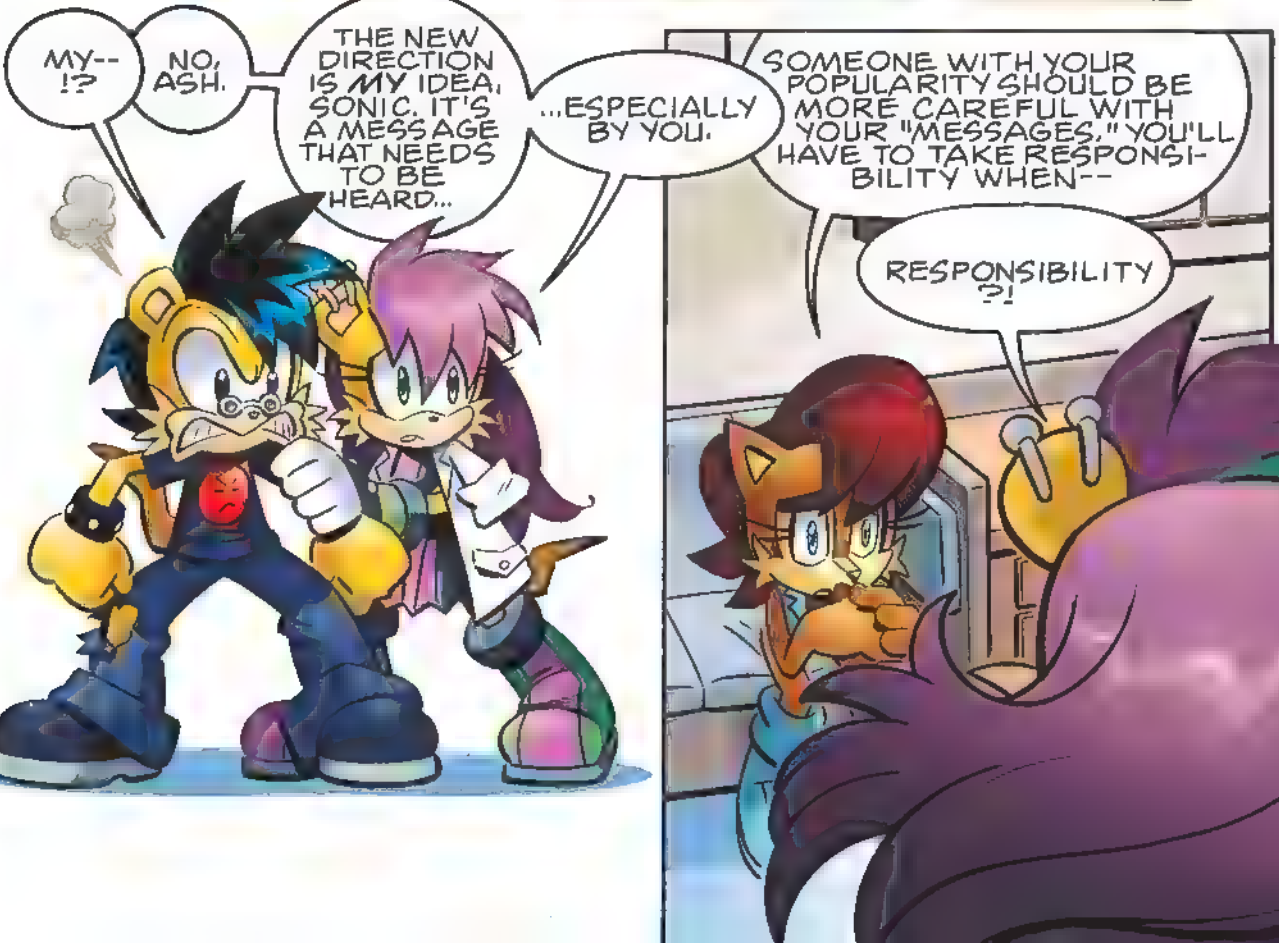
SPEED OF SOUND? KINDA KNOWN FOR IT?



YOU CAN LINE UP FOR AUTO-GRAPHS LIKE EVERY-ONE ELSE, HOG.

CUTE.

MINA'S MUSIC DOESN'T NEED YOUR DARK-AND-GLOOMY, "I'M SO SAD AND MISUNDERSTOOD" BAGGAGE.



MY-- !?

NO, ASH.


THE NEW DIRECTION IS MY IDEA, SONIC. IT'S A MESSAGE THAT NEEDS TO BE HEARD...

...ESPECIALLY BY YOU.

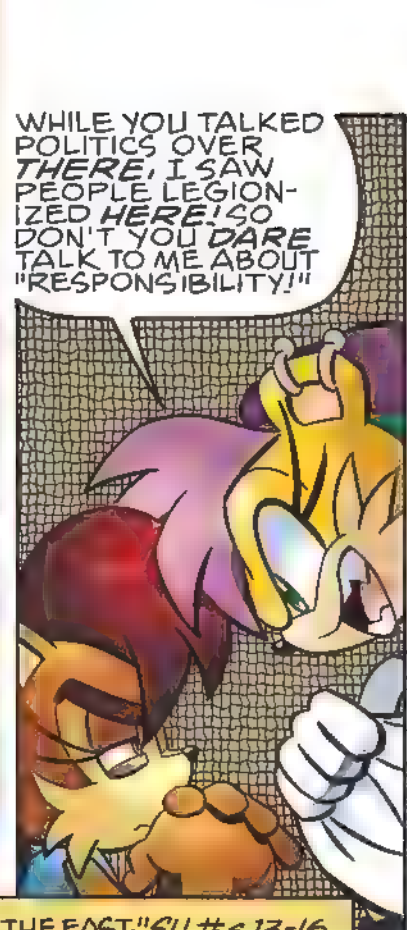
SOMEONE WITH YOUR POPULARITY SHOULD BE MORE CAREFUL WITH YOUR "MESSAGES." YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY WHEN--

RESPONSIBILITY ?!






WHAT ABOUT YOU AND THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS? BUNNIE, KHAN, AND NICOLE ALL GOT TURNED ON YOU! AND NICOLE RUNS THE CITY--/S THE CITY! HOW IS THAT "RESPONSIBLE"?!



WHILE YOU TALKED POLITICS OVER THERE, I SAW PEOPLE LEGIONIZED HERE! SO DON'T YOU DARE TALK TO ME ABOUT "RESPONSIBILITY!"




WHILE YOU WERE HALF A WORLD AWAY...\*



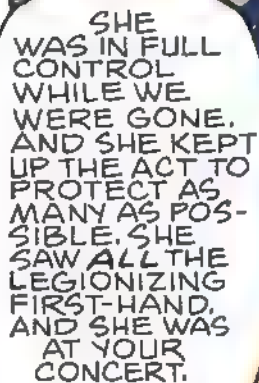
... WE WERE RUNNING FOR OUR LIVES! ANYWHERE WE HID COULD BE TURNED INTO A PRISON BY NICOLE!

\*SEE SU ARC # 4--"JOURNEY TO THE EAST!" SU #s 13-16.

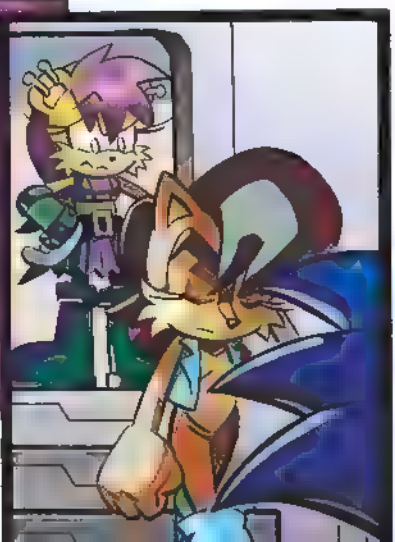


SO WE SHOULD'VE STAYED AND BEEN CAUGHT, TOO?

SAVE IT, SONIC. BUT ONE THING ABOUT NICOLE, MINA...



SHE WAS IN FULL CONTROL WHILE WE WERE GONE, AND SHE KEPT UP THE ACT TO PROTECT AS MANY AS POSSIBLE. SHE SAW ALL THE LEGIONIZING FIRST-HAND, AND SHE WAS AT YOUR CONCERT.





WE'RE NOT AFRAID!

WE'LL TAKE BACK OUR CITY!

DOES SHE FEEL IT IF I STOMP THE GROUND?

I HOPE SO!

YOU LISTENING, COMPUTER? QUIT SPYING ON US!

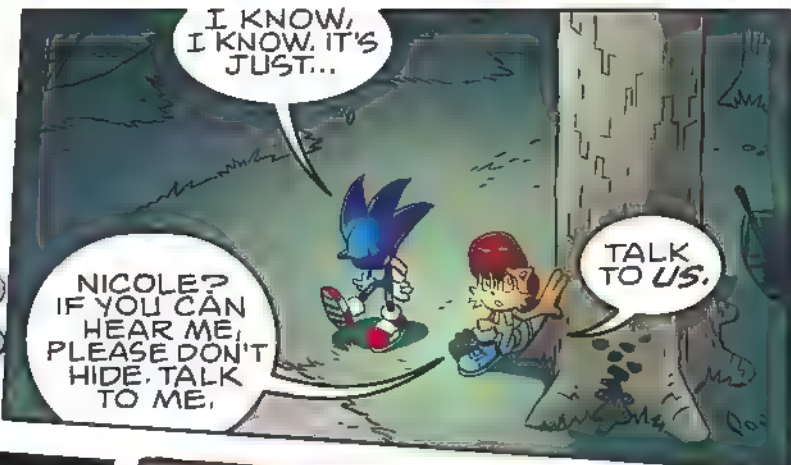
REMEMBER KNOTHOLE!

BRICK AND MORTAR!



MAYBE EGGMAN SHOULD COME BACK. SEE HOW FAST THESE INGRATES GO FROM "WAAAAH, SHE'S EVIL" TO "OH, SAVE US, NICOLE, WITH YOUR FORCE-FIELDS!"

DON'T SAY THAT...



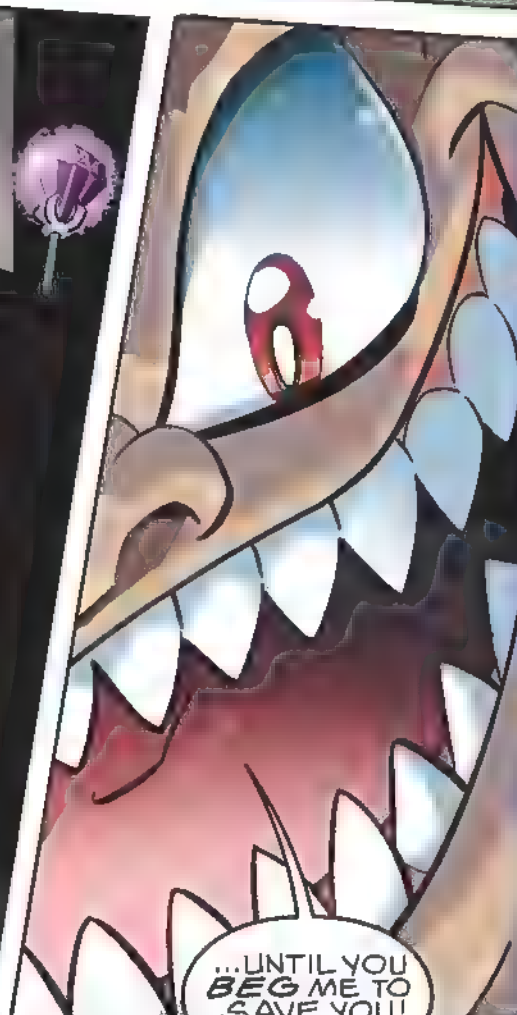
I KNOW, I KNOW. IT'S JUST...

NICOLE? IF YOU CAN HEAR ME, PLEASE DON'T HIDE. TALK TO ME.

TALK TO US.

"WE'RE STILL YOUR FRIENDS."

FESTER IN YOUR FEAR, NEW MOBOTROPOLIS. BATHE IN YOUR TERROR!



...UNTIL YOU BEG ME TO ...SAVE YOU!

WE'RE BUILDING TO A BOIL! WHAT IS NAUGUS'S NEXT SHADOWY MOVE? MAYBE HE'LL WAIT LONG ENOUGH FOR SONIC AND SALLY TO CATCH A BREAK IN "THE WORLD CAN WAIT!" UNTIL THEN... CHECK OUT SONIC UNIVERSE, SONIC ARCHIVES, AND SONIC SELECTS!

# SECOND IMPRESSIONS

## PART ONE



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HERMS



DEAR CHILD... APART FROM THE OBVIOUS, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

DIMITRI!

I-I'M SORRY. I FORGOT YOU WERE INSTALLED HERE.



I WON'T BOTHER YOU FURTHER. GOOD NIGHT.

IF YOU WERE A BOTHER, CHILD, I WOULDN'T HAVE LET YOU WEEP ALL THIS TIME.

OH, I DID NOT REALIZE I HAD BEEN HERE THAT LONG.

GIVEN THE NATURE OF MINA'S SONG, I THOUGHT IT BEST TO GIVE YOU SOME TIME BEFORE VOICING MY CONCERN...

...AND I SUPPOSE ESPIO IS DOING THE SAME.

ESPIO?

YOU CERTAINLY KNOW A LOT FOR SOMEONE WHO'S BEEN "MISSING" FOR SO LONG.

I HAVE LIMITED ACCESS TO THE CITY'S NETWORK. I COULD VIEW THE CONCERT--AND YOU COMING IN THE FRONT DOOR.

WHAT IS HE DOING HERE, NICOLE?!

SONIC AND TAILS RESCUED HIM!\* WHEN SALLY FOUND OUT HE HAD BEEN LEFT FOR DEAD, SHE KNEW WE HAD TO SHOW HIM MERCY.

WHAT? WHAT DOES A VILLAIN AND A TRAITOR HAVE TO SAY TO ME?!

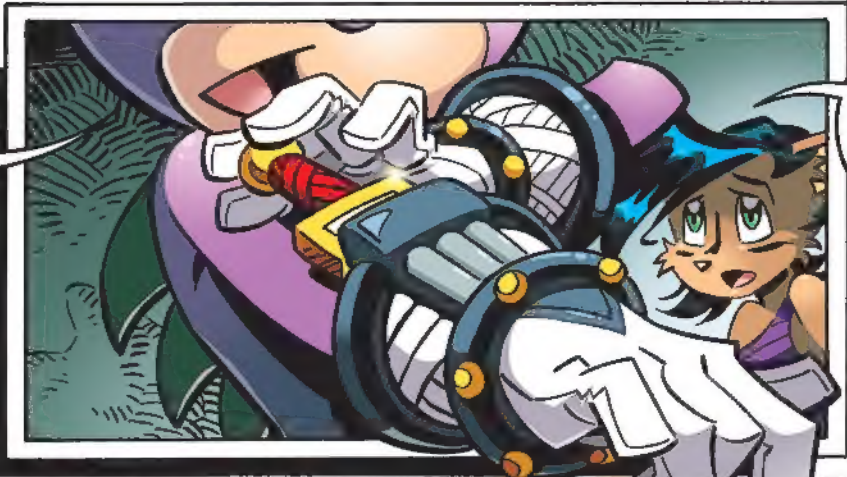
AND YOU WOULD KNOW NOTHING ABOUT BEING BRANDED A TRAITOR? HMM? NOW TELL ME-- DID YOU REALLY COME HERE TO THREATEN ME AND YELL AT NICOLE?

...NO.

\*SEE STH # 212.

ESPIO...

NICOLE, I SAW YOU RUN FROM THE CONCERT. I... I CAME TO SEE IF YOU WERE OKAY.



YOU DID? BUT... WHY?

BECAUSE YOU HELPED ME HELP CHARMY.\* AND BECAUSE THE IRON DOMINION USED US BOTH, I JUST... I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO LOSE EVERYONE'S TRUST.

OH... I-I MEANT... HOW DID YOU KNOW I WOULDN'T JUST DISAPPEAR INTO THE SYSTEM?



BECAUSE HE KNOWS YOU ARE NO LONGER A MERE PROGRAM, CHILD. A PROGRAM WOULD NOT RUN AWAY IN FEAR, OR WEEP ON THE FLOOR. HE KNEW WHERE HIS FRIEND THE MOBIAN WOULD GO.



RIGHT OR NOT, THIS IS DIMITRI, NICOLE! HOW COULD YOU NOT SAY SOMETHING? DOES KNUCKLES KNOW?

ONLY A SELECT FEW KNOW. HE'S PREPARING HIMSELF TO FACE KNUCKLES.



SHE'S BEING KIND. IN TRUTH, I FEAR FACING HIM AT ALL. WE HAVE BEEN SWORN ENEMIES FOR A VERY LONG TIME... I--I HAVE DONE HORRIBLE THINGS. BUT ENOUGH ABOUT ME. I WORRY FOR YOU, NICOLE.





I AM AT A LOSS, DIMITRI!

YOU LOST CONTROL OF ENORMOUS POWER BEFORE, DIMITRI. HOW DID YOU DEAL WITH THIS?

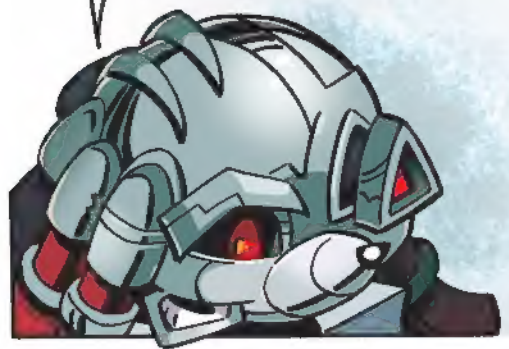
I MADE THIS CITY FOR THE PEOPLE! I MADE IT SO I COULD BE WITH THEM! INSTEAD, THEY THINK I WILL TRAP THEM WITH IT, OR WORSE.

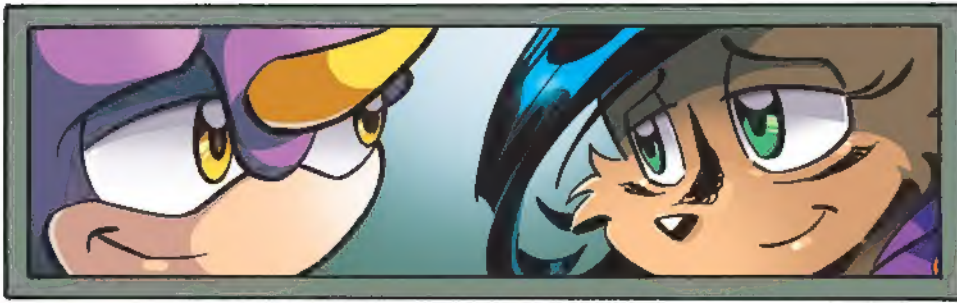
WHICH TIME DO YOU THINK SHE MEANS? WHEN YOU WERE ENERJAKI, OR WHEN YOU WERE GRAND-MASTER OF THE LEGION?

IN EITHER SCENARIO, I WAS TRYING TO EXERT MY WILL OVER REALITY, TO FORCE THINGS TO SUIT ME RATHER THAN DEAL WITH THEM AS THEY WERE.

AND NOW LOOK AT ME. NEVER TO BE WITH MY FAMILY AGAIN. MY PEOPLE LED ASTRAY BY MY OWN SON. MY LEGACY ATWISTED, WRETCHED THING SERVING THE EGGMAN EMPIRE.

I WAS SELFISH. YOU TWO HAVE SOMETHING THAT I HAD IGNORED...





YOU HAVE THE LOVE AND SUPPORT OF OTHERS. FRIENDS WHO WILL SEEK YOU OUT TO HELP YOU...

NICOLE, YOU MUST BE BRAVE AND FACE THE PUBLIC'S SCORN. THEY CANNOT HATE A FACELESS MONSTER OF THE SHADOWS WHEN SHE STANDS UP TO THEM WITH REASON.



THOUGH... IT IS ONE THING TO SPEAK OF COURAGE. IT'S ANOTHER TO POSSESS IT. I'M AFRAID YOU TWO MUST LEAD BY EXAMPLE.

THANK YOU, DIMITRI. YOU CAN REST HERE UNTIL YOU ARE READY.



I WILL NEVER BE "READY," CHILD. ESPIO, I KNOW IT IS A LOT FOR ME TO ASK YOU FOR ANYTHING, BUT WOULD YOU ARRANGE A MEETING WITH KNUCKLES FOR ME?



WELL... I'M IN NO POSITION TO DENY SOMEONE A SECOND CHANCE. I'LL TALK TO KNUX, IF YOU'LL COME WITH ME.

OF COURSE. I'LL HELP EXPLAIN EVERYTHING.

# NEXT TIME

--KNUCKLES COMES FACE-TO-FACE WITH HIS OLDEST AND MOST PERSONAL FOE! WILL IT END IN PEACE--OR **PIECES?** SEE YOU NEXT TIME!